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April 19, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan E. Fielding", written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION DIVISION**

On April 18, 2006, as a result of reduced State funding for inspections of health facilities and a resulting backlog of new facilities seeking licensing, your Board took the following action:

Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services to:

- Conduct a full review of the health facility inspection process;
- Work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel and negotiate with the State Department of Health Services on amending the County's licensure and certification contract No. 05-45391 with the State.

On June 29, 2006, I provided you with a review of the Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) and a discussion of the major problems its staff has faced over the past few years as a result of State budget cuts. On July 20, August 3, September 8, October 3, November 9, 2006, and January 18, 2007, I provided you with status reports.

State staff requested and received preliminary information upon which the contract budget and workload for FY 07-08 will be negotiated. Although a specific workload for FY-06-07 was never negotiated, State staff instructed our staff to begin processing applications for initial licensure and certification, such as for home health agencies, which had been the lowest priority for many years. In addition, our staff has been instructed to devote more resources to complaint investigations, to be in compliance with a court order directing the State to diminish the backlog of complaints and initiate all new complaint investigations in a timely manner.

Each Supervisor
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The State also approved a budget adjustment for FY 06-07 to move salary savings into training, in order to train and certify the new staff we have hired.

I will provide you with a further update by May 30, 2007. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:lm
PH:604:016-2

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors